

## Colorado Homeschool Policy and Participation Summary, 2025

Prepared by keturah abdullah

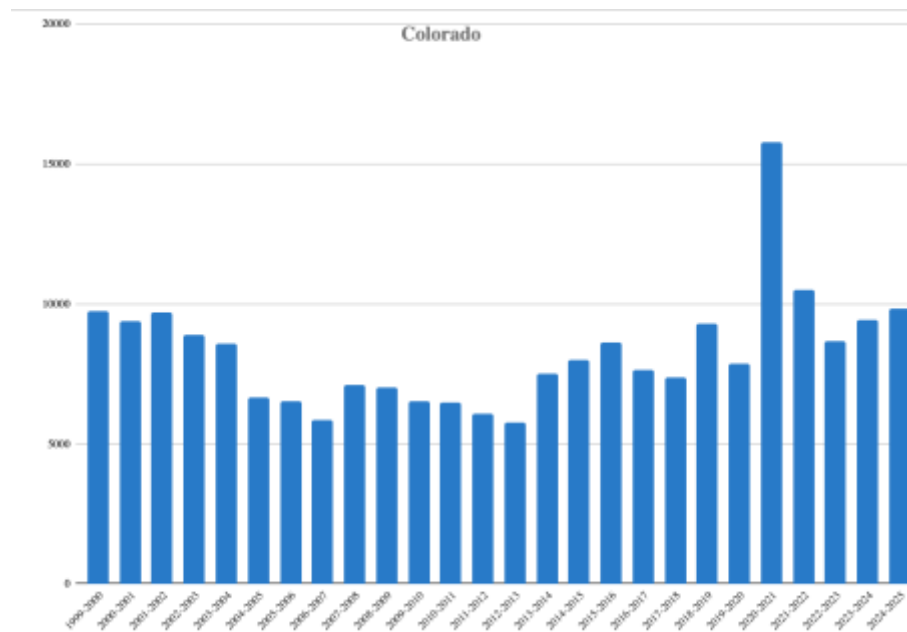
*Colorado experienced a significant increase in homeschooling during the peak of the COVID pandemic and a significant decrease in the following year..*  
 — JHU Homeschool Hub, 2025

Across the nation, more families are choosing to homeschool their children. According to the US Census Bureau (2021), “the global COVID-19 pandemic has sparked new interest in homeschooling and the appeal of alternative school arrangements has suddenly exploded.” While the average percentage of students being homeschooled in the United States is around 5%, according to the [Johns Hopkins Homeschool Hub](#), Colorado’s rate of homeschooled students reached almost 9% during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic (JHU Homeschool Hub, 2025).

### Overview of Colorado

#### Colorado’s Data at a Glance

Since 1988, Colorado has recognized homeschooling as a legally approved form of education for children aged 6 to 17. Since then, homeschooling has been a steady schooling option for families within the state. During the peak of the pandemic, the number of homeschooling students in Colorado rose to nearly 16,000 (JHU Homeschool Hub, 2025).



Number of homeschooling students in Colorado, 1999 - 2024 (JHU Homeschool Hub, 2025).

According to the [U.S. Census](#), approximately 3.4% of families homeschooled in Colorado in the spring of 2020, which increased to 8.7% in the fall. Both are below the national averages of 5.4% and 11.1% during the same time. Again, this low participation could be accurate or a result of homeschool parents identifying as private schooling. Based on [U.S. Census data](#), our calculations indicate that about 5.74% of K-12 students in Colorado were homeschooled during the 2022-23 school

year, and 7.00% during the 2023-24 school year<sup>1</sup>.

### A Snapshot of Homeschooling and Homeschoolers in Colorado

Colorado provides families participating in homeschooling a [homeschool webpage](#) through the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). Since homeschooling within Colorado is a non-public schooling option, the CDE does not use its homeschool webpage to advise on homeschooling matters. Instead, they use this page to share resources and general information about homeschooling and to inform parents and guardians to contact their local school district regarding specific questions. Although the CDE provides families with limited guidance and interpretation of the state’s statute (§ 22-33-104.5, C.R.S.) concerning home education, they do offer families some information on what to expect. Namely, they clearly state that the CDE does not advise, interpret, or guide homeschooling families on home education matters and direct them to their local school district. Additionally, the CDE does remind home educators that they are in charge of administering an educational program to each school-aged child under their supervision and that they are responsible for selecting books, supplies, tests, curriculum selection, any costs associated, as well as maintaining 172 days of instruction, averaging four contact hours per day, and keeping accurate records.

Concerning *who* is homeschooling within Colorado, there is some data that tells us information about homeschooled children and their families. We know that during the 2019-20 academic year, .8% of Colorado’s K-12 students participated in homeschooling. Homeschool participation in the state was much lower than the 4.7% of private school students. Further, 13.1% of Colorado students attended charter schools, almost tripling the percentage of students attending private schools. In the 2021-22 academic year, 1.11% of Colorado’s K-12 students were homeschooled (JHU Homeschool Hub, 2025).

### Beyond State Lines: Colorado’s Homeschool Regulations Compared to Neighboring States



Colorado and its neighboring states; Arizona, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Utah (JHU Homeschool Hub, 2025).

Compared to nearby states such as Arizona, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Utah, Colorado’s regulatory policies are not entirely aligned with those of its neighbors. Like New Mexico, Colorado is a *high-regulation* state, meaning that it has extensive rules and regulations for families registering for, and maintaining, homeschooling. For example, both Colorado and New Mexico require families to send a letter of intent to their local district, maintain student records, and partake in some standardized testing.

While homeschooling in Colorado peaked during the pandemic and has since declined slightly, it remains a vital educational choice for families. For more information on homeschool research and trends, please visit The Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy’s [Homeschool Hub](#).

<sup>1</sup> Due to survey changes, the data from 2020 reflects the percentage of households, while the data from following years reflects the percentage of students partaking in homeschooling (JHU Homeschool Hub, 2025).

**About the Homeschool Research Lab:**

The [Homeschool Research Lab](#) was founded by [Angela R. Watson](#), PhD, an assistant professor at the Johns Hopkins [School of Education](#) and a senior research fellow at the [Institute for Education Policy](#). She has researched homeschooling for nearly a decade. Dr. Watson also created the Homeschool Hub as a one-stop resource for current information on homeschooling data, regulations, and research across the United States.

**Preparer Bio:**

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